Formulation of Plans for Export of Defence Items

1375. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to export defence items and whether plans have been formulated for the purpose;

(b) what has been the total production of defence items and exports last year and the countries to which these items were exported; and

(c) whether there is a move to encourage the private sector to produce defence items and whether some systems for combat vehicles are already produced in the civil sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of production in the Ordnance Factories and the Defence Public Sector Undertakings during 1987-88 has been to the tune of approximately Rs. 3900.00 crores. The total value of exports by these units during the same year amounted to Rs. 15.10 crores approximately. It will not be in public interest to disclose the names of the countries to whom exports were made.

(c) The policy of the Government is to make optimum use of the industrial infrastructure available within the country. The civil sector has indigenised some items/systems for maintenance/production requirements of certain combat vehicles, such as Vijavanta, T-55 and T-72 tanks and BMP vehicles etc.

Functioning of Defence Research and Development Organisation

1376. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the Defence Research and Development Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has made significant achievement in its efforts to meet the requirement of three Services. A large number of defence systems and equipments have been developed indigenously and introduced into Service-use. With a view to achieve still higher standard of achievement in large, complex and sophisticated projects, number of new steps and procedures are being adopted in the DRDO. Efforts are being made to further strengthen the organisation in terms of streamlined procedures, adopting improved and efficient project management system, close interaction between R&D laboratories, production agency and the user, optimum utilisation of resources available in the country, recognition and awards to the meritorious scientists and taking up fundamental research in frontier technologies. The recruitment procedures have also been rationalised. Enabling Technology Centres are being set up, which will be common production centres or fabrication-lines established as extensions of the concerned R & D laboratories, to produce sufficient quantities of critical components required for prototypes during the development phase and initial series production of the equipment. Few Technology Parks are also being established for efficient transfer of technologies developed by DRDO by providing number of facilties to entrepreneurs including technical guidance and specialist test and evaluation facilities.